

REMARKS

Claims 16-19 are pending in the application. Claims 16-19 have been amended to delete the terms “portion of” and to add the term “genomic region or”. No new matter has been added. Each presently maintained rejection is addressed below.

Obviousness

Claims 16-19 are rejected as being obvious over the combination of Matulic-Adamic et al., Zhang et al., and Temsamani et al. (“the primary references”) in view of Bennett et al. (“Bennett”). The rejection has been maintained on the basis that the claims do not exclude endogenous mammalian chromosomal DNA genomic regions. The rejection has also been maintained because the term “portion of” has been interpreted as reading on nucleotides 12-18 of Bennett's SEQ ID No:63, which are asserted to be complementary to nucleotides 680-686 of HIV-1 (Genebank accession AF033819.3).

Claims 16-19 have been amended to remove the term “portion of”, and to add the term “genomic region or”, thereby eliminating Bennett's SEQ ID NO:63 as prior art against amended claims 16-19. Applicants do not believe that these amendments raise any new examination issues and therefore request that the amendments be entered after final. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments overcome the rejection and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes that any discussion of this communication would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 207-571-9365, x-107.

Respectfully submitted,

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